

REMARKS

This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/924,076, filed August 7, 2001 ("parent application"), which has been allowed by the Examiner. The allowed claims of the parent application are apparatus claims directed an explosion-proof instrument quick disconnect and seal for use in hazardous environments.

Original apparatus claims 1-28 have been canceled herein and new method claims 29-53 have been added. The new claims are similar to the allowed claims of the parent application, but instead of being directed to an apparatus, the new claims are directed to a method for providing an explosion-proof instrument quick disconnect and seal for use in hazardous environments. New claim 29 is the only independent claim and claims 30-53 depend (either directly or indirectly) from claim 29. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 29-53 are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully submitted.

The specification has also been amended herein to be consistent with those required and entered by the Examiner during prosecution of the parent application. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Formal drawings of FIGS. 1-5 are enclosed with this paper to substitute for the original drawings of FIGS. 1-5 filed in the parent application. These formal drawings are identical to those being filed in connection with the parent application. The formal drawings include an amendment to FIGS. 3 & 5, which was previously required and approved by the Examiner during prosecution of the parent application.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of the application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

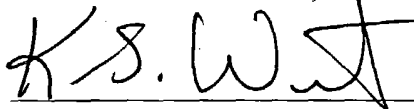
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 13-4500**, **Order No. 4481-4000US2**.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: July 22, 2003

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K.S. Weitzman', is written over a horizontal line.

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